

HAMNET BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY 4 AUGUST 2002

HAMNET is the Official Emergency Communications Unit of the South African Radio League and is responsible for providing emergency communication in times of distress or national disasters to local and regional authorities, when requested to do so.

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HAMNET EMERGENCY SIMULATED EMERGENCY CONTEST RESULTS EARTH SUMMIT UPDATE MPUMALANGA GET-TOGETHER ON THE AIR HENK VAN ELST - DISASTER MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT I.D. CARDS BEING ATTENDED TO EMERGENCY FREQUENCY PROTOCOL

CONTEST RESULTS

This year's contest was once more a success and it was just a bit disappointing that only twelve logs were received. It would appear that not many amateurs are interested in portable operation, so that nine portable operator logs received is not bad at all.

Judging from the number of stations involved this year, there could well have been more logs sent in. It would appear that more "check logs" than contest logs were submitted.

A comment from Rudi ZS6DX sums it up well. "Always great fun, wish more people would compete."

Congratulations to the winners who are:

Single operator stationery mobile: Peter ZS5SK

Single operator portable: Al ZS2U

Multi-operator portable: Rudi ZS6DX - and

Single operator base station: Robbie ZS6RAP.

Full Results are as follows:

Single Operator Single operator Multi-Operator Single operator stationery mobile portable portable base station

ZS5SK 900 ZS2U 1584 ZS6DX 1530 ZS6RAP 1344 ZS6PHD 420 ZS4BS 1530 ZS6SRC 936 ZS6BUU 1204 ZS6BHF/4 1386 ZS1B 1080 ZS1IAN 918 ZS2AJ 816
Well done to all the contestants and those who submitted logs for validation.

EARTH SUMMIT UPDATE

The planning for this prestigious event has now reached the penultimate stage. Kobus ZS6JPY and myself have now attended three Civil Protection meetings to ensure that all goes according to plan.

One final meeting will take place on the 15th of August for final wrap-up and to ensure that all is in place for this event.

There will be 3 JOC's. The one in Pretoria will be under the control of Roy ZS6HH and Rudi ZS6DX. They will elect their own team to man the station during this event.

The Sandton Fire Station will be under the control of Jan Schubart, ZS6ARV and Louw Erasmus of the Sandton Disaster Management. They will also draw up a list of people who will man the station during this period.

Finally, the Kempton Park JOC will be under the control of Kobus vd Merwe, ZS6JPY and Jan Heineke of the Boksburg Disaster Management.

ZS6BUU will be operational from home on a 24 hour basis and will coordinate activities should it arise. Francois will also be available as a mobile JOC should such an event occur, especially if overflow aircraft are diverted to Lanseria Airport from Waterkloof Airbase.

The SANDF will be supplied with an Organogram indicating the various people to contact in an emergency. We do, however, anticipate that this event will go off without any problems.

MPUMLANGA GET-TOGETHER ON AIR

Again just a reminder that Sid, ZS6AYC, extends an invitation to all ex or interested Mpumalanga Amateur Radio Operators to meet on air approx. a half an hour before the HAMNET get-together on Sunday 18 August on 7,070MHz.

Sid is on a drive to boost operators in this area. There used to be many operators who regularly reported in on Sunday bulletins when it was still run by the late Tinus Lange, ZS6TL. We are appealing the old guard and those who are interested in Emergency Communication, to join Sid on 40Meters on Sunday 18 August at 16H00 local or 4pm local time. The frequency again - 7,070MHz.

HENK VAN ELST - DISASTER MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT.

I was most surprised to get a phone call from Henk earlier this week, to not only talk about the old days, but most importantly, the main reason for his call.

Henk used to be the Disaster Management Consultant for the old Johannesburg Civil Defence Unit as it was known in those days.

Much has changed in the meantime. Henk is now a Disaster Management Consultant, working independently and making his services available to many Disaster Management Units around the country.

His job is to set out, in detail, the requirements needed to run an efficient system, should the confetti hit the fan.

Henk is a specialist in the true sense of the word. He has travelled extensively, has done a lot of research and is an extremely knowledgeable person when it

come to planning, organising and maintaining any Disaster Management Unit Station or structure.

However, the reason for his call was quite simple. HAMNET forms an integral part of any Disaster Management Structure, anywhere in South Africa.

A feather in our cap? Maybe. How prepared are we. He specifically phoned to establish the contact people in Rustenburg, as he was busy drawing up a program for an Emergency Unit close to Rustenburg.

As luck would have it, at the last Council meeting, Hans, ZS6ALJ, presented me with a lengthy list of new HAMNET applicants for the newly established Rustenburg Branch of the SARL.

I was able to supply him with a few names, but he will have quite a lengthy list of names available once all the application forms have been processed.

The point we are trying to make here is quite simple. Amateur Radio, specifically HAMNET, is still regarded as the “fool proof” and established means of communication in times of a genuine emergency.

Lets not forget that. Try and get involved with local events like rallies, cycle races or events where the benefit of Amateur Radio, not just as a means of communication, also as a hobby, can be brought home to the general public. Above all, please retain a close contact with you local Disaster Management Head and team.

NEW HAMNET I.D. CARDS

At last it's all happening. 43 New card data has been e-mailed to Glen, ZS5GD, who is painfully, but in a very beautiful way, going to add his calligraphy expertise to these cards that need to be issued.

Unfortunately, for many of them, I do not have photo's. What I intend doing is to publish a list in Radio ZS of the persons I need a photo of the complete the issuing of new cards, and believe me, there are many.

To those who have access to e-mail, I will advise direct, to those who do not have access to e-mail, I will advise you local Provincial Director and ask him to get in touch with you for the necessary.

My thanks, once again to Glen, for his efforts in getting new cards printed and the capturing of data on the new cards.

EMERGENCY FREQUENCY PROTOCOL.

It is very sad that we once again have to mention the fact that there are “preferred” emergency frequencies that over the years have become a standard in handling “traffic” in South Africa.

There are, unfortunately, those who prefer to disregard this “gentleman's agreement”, for their own selfish means.

I found it necessary to publish the accepted rule of thumb regarding 7,070MHz and 3,695MHz as a special item, which will now permanently appear on the SARL Website for ease of reference.

It was necessary to follow this route as there are those who prefer to be difficult and stubborn, but also for the newer members to the fraternity who need to be informed as to what the correct protocol and procedure is regarding “established and/or preferred emergency frequencies”.

After all, Amateur Radio according to Hollingsworth from the F.C.C is regarded as the only “fool proof system” in the world.

FINAL THOUGHT

The SARL needs members to maintain a strong head count to not only protect the frequencies for our hobby, but also to ensure that frequencies are not removed for our use due to insufficient membership of our representative body.

Now is the time to not only renew your membership but also to again become a member of a wonderful hobby by way of also being a member of the South African Radio League.

Forms available on our website, or if you cannot access the site, please send us a letter or phone us and we will send you the necessary.

Bulletin ends.